

Title: Giftmas or Christmas

Text: *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* **Luke 2:11**

Target: With every gift there is a thoughtfulness and intentionality invested for the purpose of a desired outcome, so much more is this gift of JESUS!

1. **The Gift is Personal:** *“for unto you”*
 - a. *“For God so loved the world...”* (John 3:16)
 - b. *For God demonstrated His love to us...* (Romans 5:8)
 - c. *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us.”* (Ephesians 2:4)
2. **The Gift is Purposeful:** *“born”*
 - a. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14)
 - b. *He is the image of the invisible God.* (Colossians 3:15)
 - c. *“Being found in human form, he humbled himself...”* (Philippians 2:8)
3. **The Gift is Practical:** *“this day”*
 - a. *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,”* (Galatians 4:4)
 - b. *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the gospel.”* (Mark 1:15)
4. **The Gift is Prophetic:** *“in the city of David”*
 - a. *“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea...”* (Matthew 2:1)
 - b. *“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from old, from ancient days.”* (Micah 5:2)
5. **The Gift is Provisional:** *“Savior”*
 - a. *“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”* (John 3:17)
 - b. *“We have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.”* (1 Timothy 4:10)
6. **The Gift is Preeminent:** *“Christ”*
 - a. *Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God”* (Matthew 16:16)
 - b. *“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”* (John 20:31)
7. **The Gift is Prerequisite:** *“The Lord”*
 - a. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6)
 - b. *“And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”* (Philippians 2:11)

Takeaway: This Gift of Jesus is more than a gift to be received; it is a gift that is to be used to redeem.

Sermon Discussion Questions: Here we are one week from Christmas..one week. Can you believe that it is here already? As a child, it seemed as though Christmas would never come. Now, as an adult, I find myself asking how it can be Christmas already? If you are like me, there is much to do before the arrival of Christmas. There are gifts to be purchased and gifts to be wrapped. I love to purchase gifts for others. In fact, I pride myself on being a good gift-giver. I like to pay attention to needs or to little comments that loved ones make and then find the "perfect" gift for them. It brings me great joy to watch them excitedly open the perfectly planned gift that was tailored specifically for them or to receive a thank you note days or weeks later that extols their appreciation and/or the usefulness of the gift. How about you? Do you enjoy giving good gifts? Do you like to receive good gifts? When you get a great gift, do you tell others about the gift?

But what if we gave those well thought out gifts and then the receiver never opened them? Never used them? What if they simply placed them on a shelf or in a closet? What if they never showed any gratitude? How would this make you feel?

Now, let's imagine ourselves all set to receive the perfect gift so expensive we could have never purchased it on our own. God took the time to know our needs, wrap it perfectly, and gift it to us. He gave us Himself. He gave us Jesus. Jesus is the perfect Christmas gift this season. If you have received this gift, you know how precious it is. Would you consider writing your Father a thank you note for the most perfect gift ever given?

However, you may find yourself in the position of never having received the perfect present, this gift from God. Would you like to receive that present today? The Bible says in Romans 10:9, "if you believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord and confess with your mouth that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." This is why Jesus came. "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." – Matthew 1:21

This Christmas, let us be like the shepherds as they declared their gratitude. When they heard the good news and when they had seen the babe Jesus, "the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."